

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 /082 W

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O P 311730Z MAR 75

FM US DEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0925

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0144

FROM US REP MBFR

REF: (A) USNATO 1705; (B) USNATO 1741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING

1. WE HAVE FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST THE SPC DISCUSSION  
ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR THE AD HOC GROUP ON A COLLECTIVE  
COMMON CEILING AND AGREE WITH THE GENERAL LINE  
TAKEN BY USNATO IN ITS COMMENTS. FROM THE NEGOTIATING  
VIEWPOINT, WESTERN PURPOSES AT THIS TIME WOULD BE BEST  
SERVED BY GIVING THE EAST AN ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE OF  
HOW EASTERN OBJECTIONS ON THE COMMON CEILING COULD BE  
HANDLED IN PRACTICE. ON THIS BASIS WE WOULD PREFER  
GUIDANCE WHICH, IN ADDITION TO AN INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH,  
WOULD BE LIMITED TO:

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A. PARAGRAPH B OF THE UK "EITHER" TEXT, USING THE TERM "DIRECT PARTICIPANTS" INSTEAD OF "SIGNATORIES."

B. PARAGRAPH C OF UK TEXT.

C. A POINT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "TO ASSURE THAT THE COMMON CEILING IS MAINTAINED, A PROCEDURE MIGHT BE AGREED WHEREBY THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ON EACH SIDE WOULD DESIGNATE A SPECIFIED REPRESENTATIVE TO RECEIVE AND REPLY TO ANY QUESTIONS OR OBJECTIONS RAISED WITH RESPECT TO THE MAINTANCE OF THE COMMON CEILING."

2. AN ALLIED REFERENCE TO "A PROCEDURE" RATHER THAN A "COMMISSION" OR A "BODY" FOR THE TIME BEING AVOIDS THE QUESTION OF A FOLLOW-ON MECHANISM WHILE PROVIDING AOME ANSWER TO EASTERN QUESTIONS AS TO HOW THE COMMON CEILING WOULD WORK IN PRACTISE. FROM THE LOCAL VIEWPOINT, WE WOULD NOT MIND REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT COMMITTEE OR COMMISSION IF IT DID NOT INCLUDE THE FURTHER DETAIL MENTIONED BY THE UK. HOWEVER, WE REALIZE MENTION OF THIS POSSIBILITY AT THIS TIME HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OUTCOME OF CSCE DISCUSSION ABOUT A FOLLOW-ON MECHANISM.

3. IN ADDITION TO OBJECTIONS TO ITS CONTENT, WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE BELGIUM APPROACH OF SUGGESTING SPECIFIC LANGUAGE AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE IT WOULD DEPART FROM THE PRACTISE HITHERTO FOLLOWED BY THE ALLIES, WHICH WE CONSIDER SHOULD BE MAINTAINED OF NOT MOVING INTO FORMULATION OF ANY SPECIFIC ITEM UNTIL AFTER THE OUTLINE OF AN OVERALL AGREEMENT HAS EMERGED MORE CLEARLY.

4. WE AGREE WITH USNATO THAT PARAGRAPH A OF THE UK TEXT SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INCLUDED. IT WOULD NOT ONLY DISTATCT FROM THE MAIN POINT (REF B, PARA 3), BUT WOULD ALSO CREATE A NEW WESTERN REQUIREMENT FOR AGREED STARTING DATA (REF A, PARAS 8 AND 9) WHICH WE BELIEVE MAY BE UNNECESSARY TO REACH AN ADEQUATE AGREEMENT IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH THE EAST TO INCLUDE IN THE TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT NUMBERS OF US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS

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TO BE TAKEN AND RESIDUAL FORCE LEVELS EXPRESSED IN NUMBERS.RESOR

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 USNATO 1705, 75 USNATO 1741  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <08 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR: THE COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING  
**TAGS:** PARM, US, GE, NATO, MBFR, (TICKELL)  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006